

McNamara Credibility on Line

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Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has deliberately put his credibility on the line in an effort to convince skeptics that the Vietnam military buildup is leveling off.

This is why McNamara risked making a year-long prediction last week, high Pentagon sources said, that the United States armed services would need one-third fewer new men in 1967 than in 1966.

The Defense Secretary feels he was unjustly accused of playing politics with draft calls just before the November elections. He had said at the

LBJ Ranch on Nov. 5 that draft calls for the four months of December through March "will average less than 25,000."

Last week, again at the ranch, he went much farther. He said the number of draftees and volunteers added to the services would drop to about 600,000 in 1967 from 900,000 in 1966.

McNamara is assuming that the buildup of United States troops in South Vietnam in 1967 can be slower and that there will be plenty of manpower left over to handle any other contingencies.

The predicted reduction in new men is not related in any way to U.S. plans for its troops in Germany, Pentagon officials said. There has been speculation that the U.S. will reduce its troop commitment there, but McNamara has steadfastly denied this.

There are about 218,000 U.S. troops in Germany now, and that total is slated to rise to 225,000 by the end of 1966.

The buildup of troops in Vietnam has risen this year from 181,000 to 360,000 as of Nov. 19, an increase of 179,000. Pentagon plans calls for about 475,000 troops in Vietnam by the end of 1967, a much smaller yearly increase.

McNamara considers the

U. S. Manpower Buildup

This chart shows how the active duty forces of the U. S. military services have grown from the post World War II low of 1948, through the Korean War peak of 1952, to the present.

Year	Army	Navy	Marines	Air Force	Total
1948	539,998	409,966	80,414	368,348	1,398,726
1950	593,167	381,538	74,279	411,277	1,460,261
1952	1,658,084	813,936	242,017	971,017	3,685,054
1954	1,404,598	725,720	223,868	947,918	3,302,104
1956	1,025,778	669,925	200,780	909,958	2,806,441
1958	898,925	641,005	189,495	871,156	2,600,581
1960	873,078	617,984	170,621	814,752	2,476,435
1962	1,066,404	666,428	190,962	884,025	2,807,819
1964	973,238	667,596	189,777	856,798	2,687,409
1966	1,362,812	747,362	278,712	904,432	3,293,318

Trawler Recovers U.S. Flier's Body

LONDON, Nov. 26 (AP) The body of a U.S. Air Force pilot recovered from the North Sea by a British trawler on Thursday has been identified as that of Capt. Delbert W. Carns of San Antonio, Tex., the Air Force said today.

Carns was one of the two men aboard an F-100 Super Sabre, which crashed June 15 on a training mission. Capt. Stanley Wiggins, the second pilot, parachuted to safety.

leveling off he is predicting as extremely beneficial to the national economy. The fewer men to be drawn from the civilian economy, the Secretary believes, the less it is disrupted.

The Secretary has been wrong in predicting the future of the Vietnam war, but the Pentagon's manpower plans are now keyed to a leveling off. The January draft call, for example, has been reduced from the originally scheduled total of 27,600 to 15,600.

Some military manpower

leaders are worried that low draft calls will reduce voluntary enlistments and result in fewer new men in 1967 than they really need.

The Pentagon's civilian hierarchy, in the look it took at manpower requirements just before McNamara's press conference at the ranch last week, believes the buildup has gone about high enough.

The accompanying table shows that the number of men now on active duty, nearly 3.3 million, is approaching the Korean War peak of almost 3.7 million.